

## LABOR CONDITIONS MUCH IMPROVED

CHILDREN ARE NOW WORKING AT ONLY THE LIGHTEST OF TASKS.

### FACTORY WAGES NOT HIGH

Only 8,300 Men Working in Shops Draw as Much as \$25 Per Week—and Only 235 Females Earn Over \$20.

Jefferson City.

That there was a decided improvement over 1913 conditions when it comes to child labor was indicated by returns from 10,485 factories and workshops made to the bureau of labor statistics, they employing only 1,715 children between the ages of 14 and 16, 2,685 working in the previous year. Boys over 14 and under 16 totaled 300, and were chiefly used to run errands, deliver bundles or at similar light tasks. Girls numbering 1,325 were employed at light tasks in kindergartens, etc., and while the work is not physically harmful, it adds nothing to their mental development.

When it comes to Missouri factory wage earners, the majority in 1914 earned from \$15 to \$20 a week, more than 40,000 coming under this classification. Those that drew over \$25 per week only aggregated 8,300, and there were 18,739 who earned from \$20 to \$25 a week.

Female factory toilers fared worse there being only 10,942 who earned from \$5 to \$7 per week, and only 235 who made over \$20 for the same period.

#### Ordered to Return Money.

State Auditor John P. Gordon declined to comment upon Prosecuting Attorney David W. Peters' letter to him demanding that he return to the state treasury \$404.11 expended by himself and his son Maurice Gordon in attending conventions of auditors and of supervisors of building and loan associations at Salt Lake City and San Francisco.

It is known that the auditor bases his authority and that of his son to use of their contingent fund upon an opinion from Attorney General Barker to Edwin P. Deal, Barker held in the question affecting Deal's contingent fund that that official had sole control over it.

The prosecuting attorney in his letter gave Gordon until October 20 to comply with his demands.

He says that if the money is not refunded by October 20 he will file an information under Section 11,842 of the Revised Statutes of 1909.

Auditor Gordon's expense account is for \$202.21, from Aug. 11 to 24. Maurice Gordon's expense account totaled \$202.90 from July 22 to the 25 of August.

#### State Employees.

The state government and the 114 counties and municipalities give employment to 15,372 men. Sheriffs numbered 259 and policemen who were in regular uniform and drawing salaries, 2,621. Then there were 290 detectives, 245 marshals and constables, 1,494 firemen and 235 soldiers, sailors and marines.

#### New Drainage District.

Under a pro forma decree of the circuit court of St. Charles county a charter was issued to the Cottleville drainage district. The incorporators are Thomas W. McCluer, John Guttermuth, Arthur McCluer and other land owners.

#### Harvey Files Briefs.

Circuit Attorney Harvey of St. Louis, has prepared a brief in his suit against the city to enforce a law enacted by the 1913 legislature which he holds authorizes him or one of his assistants to be present at coroners' inquests and charge \$10 for each service.

#### Rally at the Cape.

Practically all of the state officials were away from the capital for a few days last week attending the big Democratic rally at Cape Girardeau. Many national celebrities were at the love feast.

#### Missouri Wage Average.

Wages paid by Missouri manufacturers on a par with those given wage earners following similar occupations in other manufacturing states. Nowhere is the average wage higher.

#### No Deputy Marshal.

One announcement made by the supreme court will be disappointing to a large number of applicants for appointment as deputy marshal of the court. The court has ordered that the place be left vacant for the present.

#### Ask 5-Cent Fare.

The Maywood Civic League asks the public service commission to order a Kansas City street car company to reduce the fare from that town to Kansas City from 10c to 5c. Longer hauls are cited.

#### Child Labor Decreasing.

Compulsory education and improved labor legislation in the last few years, have resulted in 50 per cent decrease in the number of workers between the ages of 10 and 15 years. This is true conservation.

#### Average Wages \$60 Per Month.

With the cost of living as high as it is statistical information on what Missouri factory and workshop salaried employees and wage earners are paid is useful to those who delve into sociological problems of this nature.

There was disbursed by 10,485 workshops and factories in the last year \$136,421,633, the amount being paid to 224,623 employees, consisting of 181,951 men and youths and 42,662 women and maidens, states a bureau of labor statistics bulletin.

In Missouri, as was the case in the other states, the majority of employees of factories and workshops in the last year earned less than \$100 per month, in fact, the grand average of all workers was about \$60.

The information reveals that employees connected with the management and clerical divisions of factories and workshops, as a rule, receive better wages than those who toil 10 hours a day at manual labor. For managers and superintendents the average pay was \$165 per month for men and \$78 for women. While several in this division drew \$500 per month, the majority were paid from \$100 to \$200. There were 1,286 men and 45 women considered in this classification.

Foremen and overseers, consisting of 7,123 men and 202 women, averaged \$97 a month for the former and \$63 for the latter. Bookkeepers are not as highly paid as they are generally supposed to be, 1,839 males averaging \$83 per month, and 625 females \$52. Male shipping clerks and other varieties, averaged \$68 per month, and females \$42. Probably the poorest paid of all clerical employees, considering the amount of skill, stenographers, 613 males averaging \$61 per month, 1,817 females \$49 per month. Salesmen, solicitors and buyers, to the number of 6,112 men averaged \$113 a month, and 290 females \$49.

#### Service Body Reveres Self.

In an opinion written by Commissioner Eugene McQuillin and concurred in by all the other members, the public service commission holds that it is without authority to order refunds by public service corporations to consumers. This overrules the position taken by the body in the Fort Scott & Nevada Light Heat and Water Co. case.

The opinion was filed in the application of certain firms in a proceeding against the Union Electric Light Company of St. Louis for recovery of money for service because of alleged discriminatory rates.

The Union Company challenged the jurisdiction of the commission for the reason that the specific relief sought in each case was the recovery of money, which it contended the commission is without authority to grant under the laws creating it.

There was no complaint made as to the quality or character of the service, or of the rates, nor to obtain an order relating to existing or future rates, the sole complaint being that in the past higher rates than the present rates were paid for electric service.

#### Paper Deserts Administration.

Word comes that the Paris Mercury, a Democratic newspaper, has served notice upon Gov. Major and the Democratic administration that it will not defend "a notoriously reckless and incapable administration" against the charges of waste and extravagance in handling the people's money.

Here is the Mercury's shot at the administration.

"State finances are in a bad shape, but we suppose it is the duty of Democratic papers to make the best of it and defend a reckless and incapable administration."

"The Mercury would be in a better humor to whitewash prodigality had it not predicted just this condition of affairs three years ago, when the oracles of job-making began."

"It refuses to turn a flipside until it sees further."

The Mercury is printed at Paris in Monroe county, and is regarded as one of the strongest Democratic newspapers in the state.

#### Auditor Gordon Own Attorney.

State Auditor John P. Gordon, acting as his own lawyer, filed his answer in the supreme court to the mandamus proceedings instituted against him by State Superintendent of Schools Howard A. Gass to compel the distribution of certain revenue to the public schools.

He disclaims any intent to deprive or withhold money from the schools, and insists that he is a sworn officer of the state, and that a committee of investigation of the general assembly recommended that the term "ordinary revenue" be defined by competent authority, for the reason that the auditor might proceed in the apportionment of money in a manner judicially declared legal and lawful.

There is \$217,000 held to the credit of the school fund awaiting action of the court, says Gordon.

#### Company Seeks License.

A license to do business in Missouri as a foreign corporation was issued to the Weber Engine Co., organized under the laws of Iowa. The company has a capital stock of \$50,000 and will use half of it in Missouri.

#### New Paper Started.

The Montgomery County Times, a new newspaper, edited by C. B. Booth, has made its first appearance, giving Montgomery county nine journals. It is to be printed in the town of Bell-sower.

## AMERICAN TROOPS FIGHTING IN HAITI



Bluejackets from the United States ship Washington are here shown ashore near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, attacking a party of rebels in the bush. The American forces have now about restored order in the black republic.

## CZAR OF BULGARIA AND HIS GENERALS



Ferdinand, czar of Bulgaria (in the right foreground), and the leading generals of the army with which he is attacking Serbia.

## LORD AND LADY ABERDEEN IN AMERICA



The marquis and marchioness of Aberdeen are now making a tour of the United States and Canada for the purpose of attending various meetings and of delivering lectures on social topics. Lord Aberdeen, who has twice been viceroy of Ireland, was made a marquis last January. The marchioness is president of the International Council of Women.

## PANAMA CANAL BLOCKED BY SLIDES



This photograph shows dredges working on the latest slides that have blocked the Panama canal just north of Gold Hill. Slides occurred on both banks and the land pushed up formed an island in the center of the channel. The canal may not be opened again to traffic before the end of the year.

## GO SLOW ON TARIFF

Matter Too Important for Hasty Judgment.

Conditions When the European War is Ended May Demand a Readjustment of Schedules or It May Be Unnecessary.

Like all other instructors in the protectionist school, our neighbor the Sun believes that there is only one way to revise the tariff, which is upward, and only one acceptable time, which is now. No matter if all industrial Europe is at war and is doomed to remain so perhaps for two years more, there will be peace eventually, and then our manufacturers, merchants and workers will be at the mercy of the most skillful and desperate competition the world has ever known.

Probably no well-informed person will deny that after the close of the war there will arise economic conditions in Europe that may demand important changes in our tariff. Good reasons may appear for increasing some of the schedules but it is quite as likely that common sense will dictate decreases in others. With due respect to the protectionist school, it must be said that the American tariff is going to be adjusted to revenue as well as protection for many a day.

Existing customs duties have failed as revenue-producers because the war has reduced imports. The war, therefore, has given most of our manufacturers and merchants the advantage that they would hope for under a prohibitive tariff. To increase rates upon a traffic that does not exist would be useless, and experimentation in other directions, except for the one object of revenue, would only invite jobbery and disaster.

It is not in the mind of any disinterested man to say precisely what kind of tariff we shall need when Europe relinquishes the sword. But the very worst of all tariffs in that emergency would be one under which a few favored interests could perpetuate in time of peace the obstructions from which we have suffered in time of war.—New York World.

#### Colonel in Error, as Usual.

The colonel falls into an error which no statesman who has been as fond of Franklin as he has been is apt to make. He speaks often of the "timidity" of this administration. But Franklin put it right when he said, "The fear of being thought weak is a timidity and weakness of the worst sort, as it betrays into a persisting in errors that may be much more mischievous than the appearance of weakness." It is the part of a brave president to have no fear of those who call him weak and timid. Franklin must have curled his lip when right after that he asked, "And do your lordships really think force and bloodshed more eligible than rectifying an error?" The forefathers had the autonomy of George III to handle, and they did not do it by ultimatum, the weapon of the autocrat. But by diplomacy, the weapon of a righteous people seeking justice.—Brooklyn Eagle.

#### Best Form of Protection.

We need self-protection. We must have it. We would not. Goods should pay for goods as closely as is practicable. Our best protection against the curse of a flood of cheap goods which would require the export of domestic goods to pay for them at our own prices, is not a tariff of exclusion and restriction, of home industry. The situation of the late nations is now reversed. After the panics of 1893 and 1907 our invasion of the markets of Europe appeared them. That invasion was checked by our own prosperity, which rose to such an extent that we consumed our products. In like manner the happy remedy for the European invasion of our market, under conditions compelling sales at close margins, is the restoration of European prosperity to such an extent that they will use their own products, and take off our own increasing.

#### Standpatters Will See to That.

I believe that one of the big issues of the next campaign will be the tariff.—Former Senator Burton of Ohio.

Unquestionably. Where will the standpatter Republican organization get a campaign fund if the tariff is not an issue? A few dollars might be obtained from one of the American mining and oil exploiters who had good reason to believe that Huerta was an amiable and proper person to rule Mexico, but the bulk of the campaign fund must come from the tariff interests that cannot be happy unless they have a hand in everybody else's pocket. Mr. Burton may be sure that the practical gentlemen who control the destinies of the Republican party will see that the tariff is a "big issue."

#### Good Business Conditions.

Widespread farm improvements. Buying throughout the interior broadens. Bank clearings exceed those of the same week last year and compare with those of 1912. Pay rolls show large increase. The power of increased pay rolls in sections active on war-order business manifested in demand. The pushing of negotiations for a large foreign loan has righted the exchange market and stiffened prices of farm products, the export of wheat and cotton being thereby facilitated.—Exchange.

## NEW BRITISH GAS HELMET



This is the latest gas helmet issued to the British troops for protection in the trenches against the deadly fumes from German gas bombs.

#### Activities of Women.

The women conductors on the Glasgow tram cars wear green straw hats and black watch tartan skirts. Thirty-five per cent of the women in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Massachusetts have to work for a living outside the home.

The threatened grand jury investigation of the juvenile court in Chicago is said to be a direct attack on Miss Mary Bartelme, assistant judge of the court.

The majority of the boatmen in Wales having gone to war, their places have been taken by women, who take people out for a sail or a row in the same safe way as the men did.

Women munition workers in the Vickers factory in England are earning from \$4 to \$6 per week of six shifts of 54 hours. They wear overalls of butcher blue, caps to match, leather gloves and strong boots. They all live together in a house close to the factory.

#### Our Friend, the Doctor.

A doctor is a member of the greatest and most beneficent and unselfish of all the learned professions. We look at the doctors in our hours of health, but when disease seizes upon the strength of manhood, when even the mighty Caesar cries like a sick child, when the hour of pain is upon us, then, in the hushed chamber and by the lonely lamp of the watcher, we invoke the merciful ministrations of the doctor, and with willing feet he comes through the storm and darkness, and with skill and patience and courage he battles with disease and beats back death from the house of life.